INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

EXCISE

SECRET

41 Action
28 Info

996

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IP RUCJHK RUEHCR RUEKDA RUQMBE RUQMFG RUQMVL
DE RUFHPA 753 2641100
ZNY SSSSS
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1501
INFO RUEKDA/DOD WASHDC
RUCJHK/CINCSTRIKE
RUFDN/AMEMBASSYLONDON 235
RUQMKG/AMEMBASSS AMNAN 23
RUUMVL/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 24
RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 75
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Duncan Porter DATE 2/2/04
EDS ~~or XDS EXT~~ DATE OADR
TS AUTH J. Burke REASON(S) C DC 11356
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐ 5/13/83
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐ in PART
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS b1

S E C R E T SEPTEMBER 21

PARIS FOR DEFREPNAMA

CINCSTRIKE FOR RAMSEY

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

MIRAGES

DEPTEL 1176 RPTD ADDRESSEES; AMMAN'S 146

QUAI'S [redacted] FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS DESIGNED ELICIT INFO REQUESTED REF DEPTEL:

(1) STATUS FRANCO-JORDANIAN TALKS (COMPARE AMMAN'S REFTEL): GENERAL KHAMMASH REQUESTED SOME TWENTY ODD (VINGTAINE) MIRAGES III C OR E RPT C OR E AIRCRAFT IN LATEST ROUND TALKS (EMBTELS

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1208 AND 1229). FRENCH REPLIED MIRAGE III C RPT C NO LONGER BEING MANUFACTURED (COMMENT: QUAIOFF INTERJECTED "FOR THE MOMENT" END COMMENT) BUT FRANCE CONSENTED IN PRINCIPLE SUPPLY MIRAGE III E'S WHEN EXISTING COMMITMENTS PERMIT. KHAMMASH AGREED ; DID NOT PRESS ISSUE OR PLEAD FOR PRE-CASABLANCA ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT GESTURE. HE ONLY ASKED FOR WRITTEN CONFIRMATION FRENCH OFFER WHICH FRENCH AGREED PROVIDE "IN FEW DAYS." PRICE CITED BY FRENCH WAS "CUSTOMARY PRICE SIMILAR TO THAT QUOTED LEBANESE" NEITHER MORE NOR LESS THAN PRICE MADE TO

SECRET

2- 1501 SEPT 21, FROM PARIS

OTHER CUSTOMERS FOR COMPARATIVELY EQUIPPED AIRCRAF. FYI: QUAIOFF SAID MIRAGE IIIC GENERALLY BEING OFFERED "READY TO GO" AT $3 TO $4 MILLION EACH DEPENDING UPON EQUIPMENT BUT INCLUDING ORDNANCE AND SPARE PARTS. END FYI.

(2) STATUS FRANCO-LEBANESE TALKS (EMBTELS 465 AND 1176): TRANSACTION NOT YET COMPLETED. PLANES UNDER DISCUSSION ARE TWELVE MIRAGE IIIE'S RPT E'S AND TAO MIRAGE IIIB RPT B TRAINERS (EMBTEL 665).

(3) STATUS FRANCO-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS (EMBTELS 697 AND 1010): ISRAELIS HAVE SHOWN NO FURTHER INTEREST IN VAUTOUR AIRCRAFT (EMBTEL 7368). HOWEVER THEY CONCENTRATING ON MIRAGE III F-2

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RPT III F-2. FUTURE MANIFESTATION ISRAELI INTEREST IN MIRAGE III E RPT E NOT INCLUDED.

(4) FRENCH DECISION RE PRODUCTION MIRAGE III F-2 NOT YET TAKEN. QUAIOFF UNABLE STATE WHETHER IT WOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE END SEPTEMBER AS EXPECTED OR NOT.

COMMENT: (1) QUAIOFF STRESSED RELAXED KHAMMASH APPROACH; AVOIDED SPECIFYING DELIVERS DATE AS CITED BY JORDANIANS BUT CONVEYED CLEAR IMPRESSION DATE GIVEN FAR ENOUGH IN FUTURE TO DILUTE SIGNIFICANCE OF "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" TO SUPPLY PLANES. HE IMPLIED POLITICAL ASPECTS THIS TRANSACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE FURTHER EXAMINED. GIVEN JORDANIAN REACTION REPORTED AMMAN'S REFTEL AND FRENCH PRESENTATION, EMBASSY INCLINED TO VIEW FRENCH IN FACT PROCEEDING ALONG LINES SKECHED OUT BY QUAI'S [redacted] AND REPORTED EMBTEL 582. B-1 B-1 B-3 3

(2) EMBOFF DID NOT POSE QUESTION (5) REFDEPTEL SINCE BASIS DECISION RE MIRAGE III F-2 NOT YET TAKEN. MOREOVER, SINCE FRENCH SAID TO BE JUST BEGINNING SHIFT OVER FROM MIRAGE III C TO E MODEL PRODUCTION, QUESTION OF EXCESS C'S EVENTUAL AVAILABILITY (QUESTION 1 REFDEPTEL) SEEMS PREMATURE AND APPEARS IN ANY EVENT SUBSIDIARY TO BASIC FRENCH DECISION WHETHER TO PROCEED

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WITH DEAL ON BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO JORDANIANS.

(3) EMBASSY STRUCK BY (A) REPORTED JORDANIAN SURPRISE AT PRICE QUOTED BY FRENCH IN VIEW QUAIOFF'S STATEMENTS ON PRICES REPORTED ABOVE, AND (B) REPORTED DIFFERENCES IN TONE AND URGENCY IN JORDANIAN DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT WITH FRENCH AND OURSELVES. FOREGOING STRENGTHENS IMPRESSION JORDANIAN PREFERENCE FOR AMERICAN AIRCRAFT AND/OR SKEITICISM RE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH.

GP-1

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